



REDMOND PARK BOARD



Meeting Minutes April 6, 2006 Redmond City Hall

I. Call to order/Welcome to Citizen Guests

The regular meeting of the Redmond Park Board was called to order by Chair Lori Snodgrass at 7:04 p.m.

Board members present: Chairperson Snodgrass; Co-chair: Kelsey; Board members: Ladd, Dige, Bourguignon, and Youth Advocate Duncanson.

Absent and Excused: Board members Stewart and Margeson; Youth Advocate Thomas.

City staff present: Craig Larsen, Parks Director; Tim Cox, Parks Planning; Debra Churchill, Recreation; Phyllis Blower, Recreation; and Sharon Sato, Recording Secretary.

Audience: 2 – Kris Snider, Hewitt Architects and Scott Mackay, Legacy Partnership

Snodgrass noted a change to the agenda, deleting Perrigo Woodlands Purchase and adding Luke McRedmond Legacy Presentation.

II. Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve March 2, 2006 minutes as presented by: Kelsey

Second by: Bourguignon

Approved: 5-0

III. Items from the Audience

None

IV. Additions to the Agenda/Handouts

- A. Handout – Staff e-mail in response to an e-mail from Emily Burke in regards to the North Meadow Playground at Central Park, as proposed in the Redmond Municipal Campus Master Plan. She specifically addressed her approval and support for the playground plans. Ms. Burke has been invited to attend a future meeting.

Larsen added that City staff will be monitoring plans, specifically to the permanent placement of the playground. Staff will monitor the project from the last concept to completion and construction documents. The Parks Board will be updated periodically by staff as various projects within the Municipal Campus progress.

Another project within the campus involves renovations to the Senior Center open space/recreation area. Larsen commented that the Sr. Advisory Committee and Senior Center staff would be updated regarding Planning and design of the recreation amenities behind the Sr. Center to seek input and consensus on final design and improvements.

Snodgrass noted she would like to see expanded programming for those “working” seniors that cannot attend classes during the day.

Staff will request a Sr. Advisory Committee member to attend a future Board meeting to give an overview of Committee goals.

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. Downtown Park Resources Assessment (SWOT)

Cox briefly summarized the handout to the Board noting the addition of the Maintenance and Operations portion of the assessment. Assessment information will be used as a guide to provide information for the next Parks Improvement Plan (PIP). Feedback is welcome.

Snodgrass noted that the last item under Trails should be changed to “Heron Rookery” to reflect the current City ownership.

VI. New Business

A. Grass Lawn Park, Phase III Introduction - Tabled

VII. Reports

A. Miscellaneous Usage Permit - Churchill

Churchill reported that Miscellaneous Use Permits allowed staff to be more organized, increase use at sites, bring in new revenue streams, and provide the community with unique/different events. Each application and function is considered for appropriateness, impact to neighbors/neighborhood and impact to park users before approved. Staff is in the process of educating the public about the need for permits and the new process. This ensures the ability for a more pleasant experience for the park users.

Snodgrass inquired if information would be given to those large groups to implement and encourage alternative carpooling and parking solutions (Ex. Perrigo Park). Churchill responded that parking restraints have been listed as part of the permit process (et. al. Perrigo Park), adding that functions more highly emphasized include; picnic shelter reservations, softball tournaments and Little League functions, and large groups – meaning new guidelines for drop-ins that sometimes requires parking attendants. Snodgrass suggested a fee discount encouraging more to follow guidelines.

Churchill continued that concerns in developing needs include: control for better service, becoming more pro-active and cost recovery to mitigate physical impacts of the activity on the park site. Future staff discussions will include resident vs. non-resident fees pertaining to living or working in Redmond.

Churchill reported that Filming Permits, specifically still photography, was implemented six years ago. Permit processing for film permits, specifically for park sites, have, in the past, taken over two weeks; the new policy will allow those meeting specific criteria (non-evasive to park users) to have their applications quickly processed, paying immediately (\$25 per day) and allowing their permit to be issued immediately.

A pocket size information card has been created to give to staff. The cards have been made readily available to all on-site staff members to give park users needing more education on obtaining a Special Use/Filming Permit. Surrounding jurisdictions, the Chamber of Commerce, local businesses, PTSA and past heavy park users will be sent this information. Actual On-line processing (issuing of permit) will not be available until the educational process runs for one year. Currently applications and information are available for printing. Each division of Recreation will process their own permits – et. al., Rec. staff - Farrel McWhirter, Rec. staff - Ballfields, MOC – Juel Park and Watershed Preserve.

Snodgrass suggested that for those that fill out an application with information that is not correct, a penalty should be charged.

Kelsey inquired about political structure. Churchill responded one cannot utilize City property for private gain without permission or a permit. Each application would be reviewed for potential private gain.

Ladd inquired if a fee would be charged to a student doing a project. Churchill responded that no fee would be charged. Snodgrass added that the high school's DECCA Club might also be able to utilize park facilities for fundraisers. He also added he would like to see some "fee recognition" for residents.

Churchill noted that a scholarship fund is being considered for those who may want to hold a fundraising event and may not be able to afford the permit fee. Staff hopes to combine this effort with some community partnershiping.

Usages that stem from Park sponsored events are not charged a permit fee, et. al. Teen Center band recording events.

Churchill added that Special Use Permits issued run approximately 25 per year; these are large events that highly impact Park sites – et. al. wake board tournaments at Idylwood or runs inside the Watershed. This year the City will be highly educating and requiring permit fees for day camps from public agencies, as well as the school district, and Boys and Girls Club. Requirements will include fees and reservations.

The City's goals include continuing to provide great customer service, facilitate and accommodate all users.

B. Redmond Schoolhouse Community Center (ORSCC) Renovation - Blower

Blower provided information regarding the next phase of the ORSCC renovation. Ideas, suggestions, and questions by Board members were solicited. She reported that the design contract will go to City Council on April 18th. Once approved, final plans will be drafted, allowing bids to go out in early summer with construction in August. Estimated completion of November or December 2006.

Part of the renovation includes the addition of air conditioning; one unit will be installed with the potential of cooling the entire building with initial hook-up to five areas of the building – one of those areas would be the auditorium.

Handouts of the preliminary designs by ARC Architects were given to Board members. Blower pointed out the Art area of the building, located above the former garage in the back of the Community Center. She added the Center received some ceramic equipment from King County and would be utilizing some of the area for that purpose and the remaining for other hands on crafts and uses.

The kitchen area wall will be relocated to enlarge the equipment storage area providing an entrance into the gym and a door into the auditorium; these improvements will increase the ability to rent out the facility.

Careful planning and monitoring will increase rental ability, enhance historical preservation, and ensure expansion with good use of monies spent.

Kelsey stated he would like to see the building undisturbed as possible and requested that air condition duct work be hidden as much as possible to preserve the antiquity of the building. Blower responded that the architect is very aware of the preservation aspect of the design and every effort will be taken to address historic preservation of the building.

C. Perrigo Park Land Acquisition

Cox reported that the adjacent property known as the Enso Property (3.05 acres) has been offered to the City, by its owners, for possible purchase. Staff approached the property owners with interest to purchase with the stipulation of first right of refusal. On March 21, Council authorized with negotiations with property owners. Cox asked for verification from the Board on the proceedings. Staff is evaluating the purchase price, taking into consideration fair market value. An IAC grant may also be an option. 1989 bond monies may also be utilized.

The property will be used for recreational purposes – possible play area catering to all age groups. If the City purchases the property, a revised master plan would need to be done to incorporate new boundaries and plan for specific uses that may include: sensitive areas preservation and enhancement, open space, maintenance and operations facilities, limited parking, pathways, art and other uses determined appropriate.

Motion by: Kelsey to accept the recommendation of staff to further proceed with investigation of property purchase.

Second by: Dige

Motion Carried: 5-0

D. Anderson Park Water Treatment Facility Debrief

Cox reported that Public Works is getting close to approaching Council with a property that may be available for purchase. Council will meet the week of April 3rd, staff will update the Board.

E. Bear Creek Trail Projects

On March 21st Council authorized negotiations for acquisition of property north of Union Hill Road along Bear Creek and adjacent to Avondale Way. An easement will also be acquired from to extend the trail from Union Hill Road to Avondale Road.

The Bear Creek Trail at bear Creek Park, behind Safeway, runs from Redmond Way to Union Hill Road. Bids were open on April 4th, Council approved the construction contract; construction will begin in late April and will 3 to 4 months. This will extent the Town Center segment northward and will result in a continuous, paved multi-use trail with a soft surface component from Union Hill Road on the north through Town Center to the Sammamish River Trail.

F. Perrigo Woodlands

Property located near Hartman Park, 3.5 acres, Planning Dept. taking lead, Parks Dept. to purchase for \$500,000.

G. Luke McRedmond, Legacy Presentation – Scott Mackay (Legacy Development) and Kris Snider (Hewitt Architects)

Cox introduced both Mackay and Snider and requested the Board view the presentation and give feedback to the designers on the potential design of Luke McRedmond Center. Board feedback is requested regarding intensity of use of the park and compensation for proposed private facilities within the park.

Mackay began his presentation by showing the updated design of the project and then summarized the history of the past plan for the project. The project has been reduced slightly; however the conceptual/overall plan is much the same as the prior plan. The modified plan shows an internal street grid and access points. The uses have not changed, hotel (140 rooms), 100,000 sq. ft. of office – primarily for Group Health Regional Center, apartment building and condos. Most parking is below grade (including podium parking) and some retail street parking. The general concept is an “active people” place with benefits for public and private use. Small retail hubs (restaurant, coffee shop, deli) in various places in the project will provide draw from the trail, as well as a public plaza, water features between the park and project. “Jewel box” type townhome buildings will offer a quasi-public/private space (small grade separation) front patio, the building will step back at the 3rd story and progressively from 4th story to 5th story. The building will step back from the property line. Plans also include a plaza area over looking the park with two areas on each side of the plaza area, creating a visibly open (2’ tall which will eventually grow to 15’ tall, visibility through the bottom) viewing area.

Summarizing, Mackay noted the project will offer opportunities to enhance the existing area, offering a more active area and park located on the Sammamish River Trail, offering a gathering/resting/meeting place, drawing attention to the planned added amenities. He also added the importance of the presentation between the project and park property.

Snider discussed the concept of a "riverside village" concept of buildings which creates an interactive core from all directions, bringing together the interior space of the project out to the park, offering the layering of activities – retail, living, active, biking from trail, wrapping the park around the site (enclosing the building by green). The key element is the interlocking of park and project.

Snider further discussed his vision of the "western porch" to the project – the project will drop down from the site to the trail. Trees will bracket the porch type landing, with a flooring of either pavers crushed stone, or brass, integrated with an interactive water piece. Spaces will be created to offer safety, as well as a series of spaces reinforced by landscaping. Snider also added this is the first draft concept.

Mackey continued by asking Board members what type of interaction they feel would be the most important aspect in the type of interplay with the park would they like to see more of – passive or active. Mackey suggested this might be a "frame" for an amphitheater type area, inviting summer concerts, et. al., "Arts in the Parks". The interior of the project will be directed as pedestrian friendly with minor vehicle access.

Mackey discussed utility conflicts which include a fire loop around a portion of the project and storm drainage. An existing stormwater line currently runs through the park, which may be an option. Further planning and discussion will take place at a future meeting. Kelsey suggested going out to 159th, which may pose a slope problem, but is also another option being considered.

Comments and questions by Board members, as follows:

Kelsey

- How many entrances? 6
- Will underground parking service all 4-5 buildings? Yes
- Any additional parking for visitors? Yes, retail requirement, at grade and at surface
- Signage – prominent signage will be displayed and important
- From original plans, what is the change of height of building? Building start further back (gradual steps in building heights), but no change in height., sloped/angel roofs, northwest contemporary style, natural materials/woods, sunscreen and shade that move on the buildings
- Concerned about box look. Different vernacular.

Bourguignon

- Enthusiastic for design that brings more activity to the park is favorable, drawing more people into the park from the trail
- Lawn area wet – drainage lines may be installed on the park property site
- Picnic shelter – will remain with some improvements

Dige

- Likes more activity aspect of design – well thought out plan
- Youth showed interest in an amphitheater centered around music
- Consider appropriate landscaping , water tolerant vegetation

Ladd

- In favor of more activity in park
- Step up from previous design
- Bandstand on plaza area – down to lower grove, more open

Snodgrass

- Plan for south drive? Fire lane, creating points for easy access, possible “grassing” system
- Plaza area encroaching into park? Approximately 100’ – 120’ feet
- Signage – minimum of two clear, separate signs for the park on 159th and driveway into park area, plaza, turnaround area, condo courtyard area – public park and not private (part of development)
- Clarification – driveway easement into park – driveway easement is privately owned, parking lot at entry of park development is under City ownership
- Feels the park is benefiting the developer more than City. Developer needs City parking lot, storm drainage, impact trees along border of development, amenity to enhance development and expansion onto park property, finishing touch to development. Would like to hear some discussion on assistance to enhance the park – grading for an amphitheater on the lawn area – prior discussion on improving Luke McRedmond for an amphitheater
- Example - Wilmot Park in Woodinville
- Affirmation, by Board, encouraging greater activity within a well planned private and public space within downtown. Directed involvement in planning project, interface with the park. Encourage staff to implement as many suggestions as possible, design on outside of buildings important, request return update as project progresses

Larsen

- Enhance plaza and performance area into an amphitheater design
- Work with the general shape and contour of the park
- Larsen requested copies of project submittals to Design Review Board, by architects to the Park Board

VIII. Coming Attractions

A. Joint Meeting with Trails and Arts Commissions

Snodgrass handed out a “draft” agenda for the proposed joint meeting. Date has not been established. An invitation has been extended to the Heritage Commission. The agenda will include the topic of the proposed bond issue. A tax levy will go before the public in May. Dependant on public response will determine a park bond. Feedback from all involved is important as what they would potentially be included in a Bond measure and suggesting members of the community for a Blue Ribbon Committee to review and finalize. If feasible, a bond measure will go before the community in November. The Committee will establish guidelines, perimeters within which operations will be established. This information will assist with the Parks Dept. CIP and PIP.

The Board suggested discussion and the joint meeting take place on May 4th, at their regularly scheduled meeting. Meeting will begin at 6:00 p.m. The meeting will be moved to the Old Redmond Schoolhouse Community Center. Larsen will look into a facilitator for the meeting.

B. Other

Redmond Youth Partnership Advisory Committee (RYPAC) – Youth Summit, Thursday, May 4, 2006 – 9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Old Redmond Schoolhouse Community Center.

IX. **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn: Dige

Second by: Ladd

Approved: 5-0

Meeting adjourned at 9:24 p.m.

By: _____
Lori Snodgrass, Chair

Date _____

Minutes prepared by Recording Secretary, Sharon Sato

Next Regular Meeting

June 1, 2006

7:00 p.m.

City Hall Building - 15670 NE 85th St.

Council Conference Room - 1st Floor